Claims:

1. A method for diagnosing hypertension or a predisposition to hypertension comprising determining whether a risk polymorphism is present in the promoter of an inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) gene.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the risk polymorphism is a four base pair insertion located between positions -891 and -575 5' to the transcription start site in the promoter of the iNOS gene.

3. A method according to claims 1 and 2 comprising determining whether an individual is homozygous or heterozygous for a risk polymorphism in a NOS gene.

4. A method of diagnosis and treatment of hypertension comprising diagnosing hypertension or predisposition thereto according to any previous claim, and treating an individual to reduce, prevent or otherwise ameliorate hypertension.

5. A method of predicting response to hypertension therapy, comprising diagnosing genotype of an iNOS gene.

6. A method of diagnosing hypertension or predisposition to hypertension comprising screening the whole of or a part of an iNOS gene for a polymorphism in linkage disequilibrium with a polymorphism in or near the promoter region of an iNOS gene.

7. A method of locating a further polymorphism correlated with a known polymorphism in or near the promoter region of an iNOS gene comprising;

(a) locating a further polymorphism and correlating it with the known NOS gene polymorphism; and

(b) testing whether the further polymorphism is linked to hypertension or any contributory component thereof.

8. A kit for diagnosis of predisposition or susceptibility to hypertension comprising:-

(a) one or more PCR primers for determining genotype of the promoter region of an iNOS gene; and

(b) apparatus for correlating iNOS promoter genotype with risk of predisposition or susceptibility to hypertension or any contributory component thereof.

9. A kit according to claim 8, wherein said apparatus comprises a set of reference markers.

10. A kit according to claim 14, wherein said apparatus comprises a reference gel.

11. A kit according to claim 14, wherein said apparatus comprises a reference chart.

12. A method for diagnosing Syndrome X or a predisposition to Syndrome X comprising determining whether a risk polymorphism is present in the promoter of an inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) gene.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the risk polymorphism is a four base pair insertion located between positions -891 and -575 5' to the transcription start site in the promoter of the iNOS gene.

14. A method of diagnosing Syndrome X or predisposition to Syndrome X comprising screening the whole of or a part of an iNOS gene for a polymorphism in linkage disequilibrium with a polymorphism in or near the promoter region of an iNOS gene.